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Emperour of Rome/and marcyen the Iuge whom we
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ty god that by her meritis he byrynge vs after this sho
te and transitory lyf in to his glorie perdurable.

Here endeth the lyfe of saynt Barbara
Imprinted in London by me Iulyn
Rotary dwellinge in Poules chirche
parde at the weste doze besyde my lorde
of london's palayse/at the sygne of the
thyr kynges Anno post virginem
partum. M. cccc. xviii.



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The lyfe of saynt Erasmus.



The holy mā
saynt Eras-
mus was of noble/
t of grete kynrede/
t he was not onely
gentyll by his byrth
but also in dedes and
cōdiciōs. In þ time

that Dyoclesianus the Emperour
reigned whiche was a grete persecu-
tor of crystē people. Tho came th
is holy mā saynt Erasmus in þ lōde
of cōpanyē/ whiche was vnder þ
iurysdyccyō of þ said Dyoclesian
t there this holy mā preached to the
people the word of god/ t taught to
thē the crysten fayth/ t he baptised

them in the name of the fader the sone/ t
the holy ghoost. Than was thys holy m
an chosen/ and made byshop of all the

londe of campanyen / & preched ad chaughte þ people how
they sholde serue god and loue hym & auoyde synne. Than
it came to þ knowlege of the mperour that saynt Erasmus
had conuerted all the lende of Campanyen in to his bpleue
and to his god that the called Jhesu Cryste that was bozne
of a pure vyrgyn that hyght Marye. Then was this Em
peroure sore troubled. and sente forth his knightes for this
holy mā saynt Erasmus / and commaūded them that they
sholde constrayne hym to forsake his god y he called Jhesu
criste / and yf he wolde not y do / than they sholde turmente
hym with the gretest payne that they coude ymagen. So it
happed that they founde this holy man & they bounde him
as though he had ben a thefe or a mankeller and broughte
hym before the Iuge & with a fell & a spytefull mode the Ju
ge to hym sayd. Thou rude and vnbyleuynge mā / Wherefo
re doost thou with thy deuyllyshe werke for to couerte all
the people frome theyr bpleue to thy bpleue / and to thy god
wherefore bpleuest thou not vpon the same god that Dyocle
sianus & we all bpleue vpon. I tell the for trouthe yf thou
wylte not forsake & denye thy god that thou namest Jhesu
crist & praye to the wyse god we wyl hange the so horrybly
that all the baynes of thy body shall breke. Tho answered
the good saynt Erasmus mekely and softely and sayd. Al
myghty god that all thyng hath wrought heuen and hell /
and all y therin is / hym wyl I neuer forsake for no thyng
that can or may be done to me / for his bodely grace hath gy
uen vnto me suche grace & to other his chosen frendes that
he was made man / & hath tasted and suffre the bytter dethe
for me ad also for all synners ¶ As the Iuge that herde of
this holy man he swelled vpon hym for angre & made hym
for to be beten vpon his heed / and spytefully vpon his bles
sed face / & besprenked on hym with felonelle / that he lemed

as a lepreous man. whan this tyzannus Judge sawe that
this good saynt Erasmus thus pacyently suffred/and y^e al-
waye he thanked Ihesu cryst of all. Than wente he in gre-
te cruellnesse and dyde the holy mā do beten so cruelly with
leden malles that all his baynes must breke & braste of whi-
che he sayd no thyng. For he suffred it hertele thynkyng
for crystes sake. ¶ Then comaunded the cruell Juge that
this holy man sholde be put in to a depe pytte that was full
of snakes adders paddokes and other wormes. And after
that he dyde take byrmstone & oyle & dyde seche it & dyde do
caste this holy man therin/ & he laye therin as he had laye in
colde water thankynge and lounge almyghty god. whan
this vnmercifull Juge sawe y^e thus no thyng hym perys-
shed/then waxed he moze angry and toke soden pytche and
oyle/and dyde put it in to his holy mouthe syttinge alwaye
in y^e pytte of fornesse thynkyng & lounge god. Than rose
there so grete tempest of thondryng and lyghtnyng that
brenned the fornesse that saynt Erasmus late on and he no
thyng greued nor hurte. But all y^e other cruell people that
were therby/were brenned vp with y^e same fel wedder. whā
the Emperoure herde this he was so angry that for wrache
he dyde make grete chaynes and boltes of yron/ and smote
it aboute his neke and dyde hym so to be cast in y^e foresayd
pytte that was full of wormes for that they sholde ete this
holy man Erasmus. ¶ Thenne came there an aungell fro
god and dyde lyghte all the pytte and dyde slee all the wor-
mes. And thenne was this holy Erasmus thorughe hole &
fulfylled gresely with the grace of god. And ayenst the wyll
of that euyl people he came agayne oute of that pytte/ and
wente agayne and preched the worde of god soo longe/tyll
the cruel Emperoure Dyoctespanus dyed. And than ano-
ther Emperoure that hyghce Maximianus/and was mo-

the worse than was **D**ioclesianus whome this **M**artianus herde of the lyfe of this holy **E**rasmus **T**henne he dyde hym to be taken / & thā wolde haue made hym to forsa ke his god and his byleue. And whan he sawe that he wolde be not chaunge his byleue. **T**henne he dyde doo this good man to be put in a panne sechynge with rosen pytche brym stone sede and oyle. And dyde poure it in to his mouthe for whiche he neuer shyked. And whan this cruell emperoure sawe that this payne hurte hym nothyng than made he a cloke of metal as brasse or coper and made it glowynge hote and put it vpon his holy body / and as soone as that cloke had touched his holy body the cloke burned all the euyl and wyked people that were there by. By whiche myracle many folke were tourned vnto the cryste fayth. ¶ **T**henne appeared to him the aungell of god / and comforted hym in his trybulacyon and made hym hole and stronge / and caried hym then and saied to hym **O** saynt **E**rasmus **I** moost chosen frende of god / be stronge in thy trybulacyō / for thow with thy grete martyrdome shall many men come to the eternal lyfe / therfore byleue stedfastly in god and forsake hym not whan saynt **E**rasmus herde this he went agayne gladly / and preched and conuerted moche people vnto the crysten byleue more than euer he dyde before. And whan the emperour vnderstode this he pursued this holy man still & ordeyned for hym a cote of yron. And he commaūded y it sholde be made glowynge hote / and so put it vpon the naked body of the holy man. And whan they had founde saynt **E**rasmus prechynge / they toke hym and sayd yf thou wylte not forsake thy good and thy false byleue. And praye and worshyppe our god we wyl put on thy naked body this brennyng cote. **T**han answered y good saynt **E**rasmus & sayd **L**y lorde my god hath for me so moche done & suffred more thā **I** ha

ue deserued wherfore I wyll suffre all þ I may suffre for hi
For he hath deserued it so highly aiest al sinners. Therfore
I tell you for certayne þ I wyll neuer forsake hym to suffre
All that I may suffre for his holy name. And I comytte me
hole to his his holy grace. Then they with grete wraich put
this brennyng cote vpon his blessyd naked body/ & thā he
kneled downe & called mekely vpon god & sayd. O almighty
god haue mercy vpon me/and forth with brast the bren
nyng harneys from his blessyd body and brenned all thē
that so wraichfully wolde haue punysshed hym by the whp
the myracle many men was conuerted and was crystened
of the good saynt Erasmus. ¶ Tho appered to him again
the aungell of god and sayd. O Erasmus goddes champy
on thou shalte go agayne in to campanen/ād there shalte
thou suffre passyng grete payne. And god commaundeth
the to conuerte there moche people/and what thyng thou
desyrest of hym to thy soule helch it shall be graunted. Thā
kneled saynt Erasmus mekely downe & sayd. O almighty
god fader of heuen thy wyll be fulfilled in me. Than wrou
te he agayne gladly in to the londe of companen/ & there
preched he agayne the worde of god/and conuerted many
folke to the crysten fayth. ¶ Then this Emperoure Mari
mapnus dyde take this holy man/and let hym be brought
before hym/and he commaunded hym to ledde to the fal
se goddes and he sholde worshyp them. and whan this ho
ly man came before the false goddes than myghte they noo
lenger stonde. But fell downe and brake all in ppeces/ād
consumed in to ashes or duste. And whan this came to the
knowlege of the emperoure/than was he sore agreued ād
than he ordeyned a tonne smyten full of yron nayles. And
dyde this holy man for to be put therin naked and closed it
faste to. And lette it fall downe frome an hyghe hyll. And

than came the aungel of god and comforted this holy man
and holpe hym out of þe conne and made hym hole and said
to hym. ¶ Erasmus the very chosen seruaunte of god sea-
le not but goo and preche agayne/ & take hede of no payne
whiche commaundemente he mekely abayed. Than the
Emperoure dyde take hym agayne and commaunded his
tette to be pluked out of his heed with yron pynners. And
after that they bounde hym to a pyler and scratted his skin
ne with yron cardes/ and than they rosted hym vpon a gred
dyzen/ and as he laye he spake to the tourmentours merely
I lye here better than I am worthy. for I lye vpon a bed
de well strewed with swete reles/ and I se the lpyghte euer
lastynge the sone of god syttinge on the ryghe hode of his
fader. ¶ Tho spake the cruel Emperoure/ a this is a very
taryer of tyme/ and he mocketh vs and oure goddes. And
he deserued to be brought to the moost cruell deeth that we
can for hym ymagen. ¶ Than toke they this holy man and
dyde put hym in a depe pytte that was full of stench. And
than this fell cruell Emperour toke counseyll what payne
þey myght doo to this holy man to bynne hym to deeth.
¶ Henne tounde they in theyr myndes that they wold byn-
ge this holy man to deeth though they sholde martyr and
payne hym a yere longe/ and soo they dyde before and after
euery sondaye with newe payne the heupest and sharpest þe
they coude for hym ymagen. whan the emperoure had take
his shrewde counseyll. Than they toke this holy Erasmus
out of that synkynge pytte/ & smytte sharpe nayles of yron
in his fyngers and after they boored oure his eyen at his heed
with theyr fyngers. ¶ And after they layde this holy bps
shop vpon they grounde naked and stretched hym with stro-
ge whythes bounden to horses aboute his blessyd naked ar-
mes and legges/ so that all his veynes and senewes that

he had in his body braste. Than let they hym lye in the felde
that the beestes sholde ete hym/than came a voyce from he
uen/and called. ¶ Erasme lyfte vp thyn/epen the crowne
of euerlastynge lyfe is redy for the. And with that he lyfte
vp his holy eyen in to heuen. And he sawe the euerlastynge
Joye open and sayd. ¶ lorde where hast thou be blessyd be
thy name/than was the holy man hole and sounde/and an
aungel brought hym a purple clothe frome heuen and com
maunded hym that he sholde go agayne and preche þe woꝝ
de of god. whiche he dyde moze strongly than he dyde be
foze. ¶ And whan the Emperoure with his false conseyll
vnderstode this/he wared out of his wytte for angre/and
called with a lowde voyce lyke as he had ben madde & sayd
this is the deuyll/sholde we not brynge this captyfe to deth
¶ Than founde he a counseyll for to make a wyndace/and þe
was vpon the laste sondaye of the yere/and they layde this
holy martyꝝ vnder the wyndace al naked vpon a table/ and
cut hym vpon his bely/and woude out his guttes or bowe
les of his blessyd body/but whan the cruell Emperoure sa
we that they coude not brynge this holy man to deth wyth
all these paynes and tourmentes/they chayned and bolted
hym hondes and fete with grete yrons and in woodnesse
caste hym in a foule stynkynge pytte. And lette it be shytted
with grete yron boltes. Soo that he wolde neuer moze se
hym. Than appared to hym þe aungel of god with grete cle
renesse & sayd. ¶ Erasme stonde vp & forth with fell frome
hym all his yrons and bondes. And he was brought in to a
towne called Fremyana and there he reysed a chylde frome
dethe to lyfe/whiche was a gentylmans chylde/and the fa
der hyght Anastasius/by the whiche myracle many thousa
des of people were conuerted vnto the crysten fayth In the
whiche towne this holy man abode seuen dayes prechynge

the worde of god & strengethed the people in þe crysten byle-
ue & whan þe houre was come y this byshop and martyr of
god sholde departe out of this worlde/cha was preferred a
lowde voyce partycely/comynge frome heuen sayenge. **O**
Erasm: my true seruaunt thou hast done me true seruice
therfore come with me & goo and entre in to the blyss &
Joyes of thy lord/and I promyse the and all people that
thynke vpon thy grete payne/and vpon thy holy name cal-
len/and sue/and worshyp euery sondaye what so euer that
they aske of me in thy name for the wele of theyr soules. I
shall graunte it. Now come my true and chosen frynde &
be gladde and comforted with my ascencion I wyl that þe
arise with me and come set vpon the ryght honde of my fa-
der. **T**henne was this holy man ryght glad Joyfull &
he cast his eyen v. warde to heuen with lyftrynge vp his ho-
des and there he sawe a clere shyninge crowne come frome
heuen vpon his blessyd heed. **T**ho gaue he lounge & than-
kyng to almyghty god with bowynge his heed and knelyng
ge/and bothe his hondes v. warde to heuen & mekele sayd
O lord god in thyn hōdes yelde I my spyryte. And this so-
daye receyue my soule in to thy pease and rest & with sayen-
ge y wordes he yelde vp his ghoost whiche was seen wpyth
many mannes eyen/shyninge clere than the sonne & howe
þe was receyued of y holy aūgelles/& was ledde thorow
the heygth of heuen in to þe vppermost place of heue/there
he stondech with god/with all the holy companye And is a
true helper to all them that cal truely to saint Erasmus for
ghoostly helth whiche Joye & ghostely helthe Let vs praye
that he for vs all of our lord god may optayne. **Ame**

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